

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment-A, the claims in the application remain claims 1-10 and 13-18, of which claims 1 and 7 are independent, and claims 16 - 18 are new.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further and more precisely define the subject matter which applicant regard as the present invention. Particularly, claim 1 has been amended herein to further define that a system for monitoring pressure of tires mounted on vehicle includes an operating switch installed in a compartment of the vehicle to be operable by the operator for supplying the operating power to the alarm section regardless of the operating condition of the vehicle by connecting the battery to the alarm section, while bypassing the ignition switch. The specification has been amended at paragraph [051] to provide an express antecedent basis for the amended language of claim 1.

Claim 7 has been amended herein to incorporate the features of claims 11, 12 (now cancelled), and is effectively claim 12 rewritten in independent form.

Claim 9 has been amended herein to further define that a system according to claim 7, wherein the second alarm section includes a warning lamp for each of the tires that is lit when the result of the determination indicates that corresponding said tire pressure is not proper. Claim 13 has been amended to more clearly define that the portable terminal device is one of a remote keyless entry device, a cellular phone and a portable phone. New claims 16-18 further define aspects of the invention relating to the predetermined value and the display panel of the second alarm section.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments and new claims are fully supported by the original disclosure including drawings, and that no new matter is introduced

into the application by the amendments.

The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the applied references carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. In view thereof, the present Amendment-A is submitted. It is contended that by the present amendment, all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102 (b) and 35 USC §103 (a)

In the above-identified Office Action (page 2, item 2), the Examiner rejected claims 7-9 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ko (JP 200119176). Additionally, in the above-identified Office Action (page 6, item 8), the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko in view of Flowerday et al. Relative to the rejection, it is the Examiner's position that while Ko does not specify the monitoring unit informs the operator with indication of increase/decrease direction of tire pressure adjustment, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the indication of increase/decrease direction of tire pressure adjustment for the convenience of the vehicle operator to quickly visualize the need of tire pressure adjustment based on the teachings of Flowerday.

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration and in light of the above amendments in which claim 7 incorporates the features of claims 11, 12, applicant respectfully submits that present claims 7-9 are patentably distinct over the disclosures of Ko and Flowerday for several reasons.

Initially, applicant respectfully submits that the proposed modification of Ko's tire pressure monitoring system relative to a select feature of Flowerday is improperly based on a suggestion coming entirely from the Examiner (guided by impermissible hindsight of applicant's disclosure), rather than any teaching or suggestion which may be fairly gleaned from the references themselves. Particularly, Flowerday et al. do not disclose a system in which an arrow on the display tells the user which direction to adjust the pressure within the tire, such as the modification to Ko's system which the Examiner has suggested. Instead, the display of Flowerday et al. uses a remote device, using an arrow as an indicator, to help the user locate the vehicle. In other words, if the transmitter was in the tire of the vehicle, the receiver of the remote device would display an arrow indicating which direction toward the vehicle/tire from the location of the remote device. Therefore, it is not obvious to use this same "moving" arrow icon on a tire inflation pressure display to indicate to the user whether to increase or decrease the tire pressure because neither reference provides any suggestion or motivation for doing so.

Relatedly, applicant respectfully submits that the applied references, whether considered singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a tire pressure monitoring system as defined in claim 7, wherein the monitoring unit informs the result of the determination to the operator with indication of increase/decrease direction of tire pressure adjustment, and the second alarm section includes a display panel that indicates the increase/decrease direction of tire pressure adjustment by an arrow.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that present claims 7-9 are clearly patentably distinct over the Ko and Flowerday references, and accordingly applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103 (a)

1. In the above-identified Office Action (page 3, item 4), the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose (US 2004/0095231) in view of Corgan et al. (US 4,263,579).

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration and in light of the above amendment to claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3 are patentably distinct over the disclosure of Ichinose in view of Corgan et al. for reasons given below.

Initially, applicant respectfully submits that the proposed modification of the system of Ichinose based on select features of system of Corgan et al. is improperly based on a suggestion coming entirely from the Examiner (impermissibly guided by applicant's disclosure), rather than on any teaching or suggestion which may be fairly gleaned from the references themselves. Given the use of the portable transmitter in Ichinose's system, it is clear that the tire monitoring may be effected at any time, including when the vehicle is not travelling and the engine is not running. Quite differently, the system of Corgan et al. is specifically based on a *requisite condition* that the vehicle is traveling such that the vehicle wheels are rotating (col. 4, lines 15-17 and col. 5, lines 57-68).

Further, the disclosure of Ichinose teaches away from the use of a separate battery for the monitoring unit. Specifically at paragraph 25, Ichinose teaches that the power consumption of the tire sensor unit is reduced because the radio transmission is effected only when a tire

abnormality is detected.

Thus, persons of ordinary skill in the art would not consider it obvious to modify Ichinose's system in view of a select feature of Corgan, i.e., use of a vehicle ignition switch or an operating switch for supplying power to an alarm) as proposed by the Examiner, because the feature of Corgan et al. (as specifically disclosed) is incompatible with the system of Ichinose.

Additionally, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to make the warning lamps used by both Ichinose colored LEDs. However, again the system of Ichinose teaches away from the use of colored LEDs as warning lamps, since the display unit of Ichinose already uses a different lamp for each of the 4 tires. Therefore, it would not be obvious to have each lamp not only be for a separate tire but also flash a different color. On the other hand, the Examiner's reference to "well known" indicating devices is not supported by any evidence of record, particularly in relation to a tire pressure monitoring system, and hence insufficient to establish prima facie obviousness under 35 USC §103(a).

Although does not believe that the Examiner has established prima facie obviousness of the claims 1-3 in view of the Ichinose and Corgan references as discussed above, applicant has also amended claim 1 above for the purpose of advancing prosecution. Particularly, claim 1 now defines that operating switch is operable by the operator for supplying the operating power to the alarm section regardless of the operating condition of the vehicle Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not achieved or made obvious by any hypothetical combination of the Ichinose and Corgan references, based on the actual teachings thereof, given that this is directly contrary to the operation of Corgan's operating switch, as discussed above.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the

rejection of claims 1-3 under USC §103(a).

2. In the above-identified Office Action (page 4, item 5), the Examiner rejected claims 4-5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose and Corgan et al. in view of Flowerday et al. (US 2003/0214395).

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration, applicant respectfully submits that claims 4-5 are patentably distinct over the disclosures of Ichinose and Corgan et al. in view of Flowerday et al. for those reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, which are not overcome by any teaching of Flowerday, and because Flowerday et al. never disclose or suggest a system in which an arrow on the display tells the user which direction to adjust the pressure within the tire, as discussed above, contrary to the requirements of claims 4-5.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-5 under USC § 103(a).

3. In the above-identified Office Action (page 5, item 6; and page 6, item 10), the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 15, respectively, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose and Corgan et al. in view of Walenty et al. (US 6,877,371), and Ko in view of Walenty et al. It is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to persons of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the systems of Ichinose/Corgan and Ko to compare tire pressure output with a standard value such as the manufacturer's recommended cold tire pressure based on the teachings of Walenty.

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration and in light of the present amendment, applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 15 are patentably distinct over the disclosure of Ichinose/Corgan et al. and Ko each in view of Walenty et al. because the proposed combination of references, including Walenty, fails to overcome the deficiencies of the applied references in relation to independent claims 1 and 7.

Moreover, applicant notes that the US Patent Application issued to Walenty et al. was not filed until November 7, 2003, which is subsequent to the priority date (December 17, 2002) claimed in the present invention based on priority Japanese patent application 2002-365556. Hence, Walenty is not prior art to the present application

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 15 under USC §103(a).

4. In the above-identified Office Action (page 5, item 7), the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 13 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko in view of Achterholt (US 6,476,712). It is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious to persons of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Ko to include a portable color display panel in the form of a remote keyless entry device based on the teachings of Achterholt.

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration and in light of the above amendment to claim 7, applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 and 13 are patentably distinct over the disclosure of Ko in

view of Achterholt for those reasons discussed in relation to claim 7, which are not overcome by any additional teaching of Achterholt.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 13 under USC §103(a).

5. In the above-identified Office Action (page 6, item 9), the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ko.

Applicant's Response:

Upon careful consideration, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is patentably distinct over the disclosure of over Ko for those reasons discussed in relation to claim 7, and because the feature of claim 14 is not shown to be obvious in view of Ko or any other evidence of record. For example, Ko never discloses that the frequency on which each of the different antenna would work is the same. Further, it would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to modify Ko's system to include such feature because Ko does not indicate that each of the transmitters and receivers should be able to communicate not only with their own transmitter or receiver by any transmitter or receiver in the system.

For all of the foregoing reasons, applicant requests consideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC §103(a).

Other Matters

The additional references cited by the Examiner at item 11 of the Office Action, US Patent Publication No. 2003/0046993 to Fujii and US Patent Nos. 6,612,165 to Juswik et al., and

5,463,374 to Mendez et al., have been considered by applicant. However, it is respectfully submitted that these additional references fail to overcome the deficiencies of the Ko, Ichinose, Corgan, Achterholt, Flowerday and Walenty references as discussed above in relation to the present claims 1-15.

New claims 16-18 are believed to be patentably distinct over disclosures of the references of record based on the foregoing arguments relating to claim 7, and based on the merits of the additional features set forth in these new claims.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant has overcome the Examiner's rejections as presented in the Office Action; and moreover, applicant has considered all of the references of record, and it is respectfully submitted that the invention as defined by each of the present claims is patentably distinct thereover.

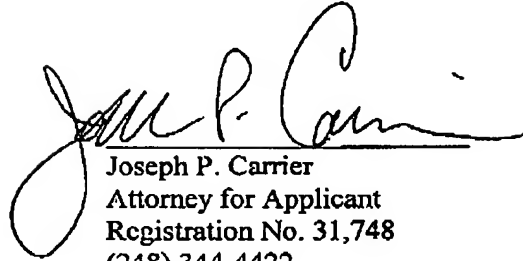
Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments, and new claims do not introduce any new matter into the application.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of all of the claims now in the application, applicant respectfully requests that he telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve prosecution of the application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph P. Carrier
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 31,748
(248) 344-4422

Carrier, Blackman & Associates, P.C.
24101 Novi Road, Suite 100
Novi, Michigan 48375
04 August 2005

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the US Patent & Trademark Office, Art Unit 2636, on 04 August 2005.

Dated: 04 August 2005
JPC/fs

